

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of capturing clickstream data related to viewing content, comprising:

receiving programming from a distribution network;

receiving clickstream data at a viewer appliance communicating with the distribution network that describes at least subscriber actions that control the viewer appliance;

receiving an identifier of a viewer who generated the clickstream data;

denying local storage of the clickstream data at the viewer appliance and, instead:

establishing communication from the viewer appliance to a remotely located component; and

relative to receiving the clickstream data, concurrently forwarding the clickstream data and the identifier from the viewer appliance to the remotely located component.

2. (Cancel)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

executing the clickstream data at the viewer appliance to alter an aspect of the content being viewed by a viewer.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising concurrently forwarding the clickstream data to a remote storage device.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising matching the clickstream data to a present context and concurrently forwarding the matching to the storage device.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising determining a result of the clickstream data relative to a present context and concurrently forwarding the result to the storage device.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the clickstream data at the viewer appliance comprises receiving the clickstream data at a set-top box, and wherein concurrently forwarding the clickstream data comprises concurrently forwarding the clickstream data from the set-top box to a video control system.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating targeted advertising based upon the stored information related to the clickstream data.
9. (Currently Amended) A method of capturing user commands from a viewer that are related to viewing content, comprising:
 - receiving, from a distribution network, programming at a viewer appliance at a premises of the viewer;
 - receiving a user command at the viewer appliance;
 - receiving an identifier of a viewer who generated the user command;
 - denying local storage of the clickstream data at the viewer appliance and, instead:
 - establishing communication from the viewer appliance to a remotely located component;
 - relative to receiving the user command, concurrently forwarding the user command from the viewer appliance to the remotely located component;

executing the user command to alter an aspect of the content being viewed by the viewer; and
sending an indication that the user command has been executed.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein executing the user command comprises switching from one video stream to another video stream being provided to the premises of the viewer.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein establishing the communication comprises establishing a broadband connection.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising matching the user command to a present context and including the matching in the user command that is forwarded.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein matching the user command to a present context comprises matching the user command to a current time when the user command is received.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising determining a result of the user command relative to a present context and including the result in the user command that is forwarded.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein determining the result of the user command comprises determining a change to a new video stream relative to the present context.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein receiving the user command at the viewer appliance comprises receiving the user command at a set-top box, and wherein

forwarding the user command comprises forwarding the user command from the viewer appliance to a video control system.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising choosing content based upon the user command.

18. (Previously Presented) A system for capturing user commands from a viewer that are related to viewing content, comprising:

a reception mechanism that receives programming from a distribution network and that receives user commands, the reception mechanism also receiving an identifier of a viewer who generated the user commands and a time at which a switch received the user commands;

a transfer mechanism that establishes communication with a remotely located component and that concurrently forwards the user commands as the user commands are received; and

a control mechanism that executes the user commands received by the reception mechanism to control an aspect of the content being provided to the viewer.

19. (Cancel)

20. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the reception mechanism and the transfer mechanism are included in a set top box.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the control mechanism is included in the set top box.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the transfer mechanism concurrently forwards the user commands to a video control system located remotely from a premises of the viewer.

23. (Previously Presented) A method of capturing a user command from a viewer that is related to viewing content, comprising:

receiving programming from a distribution network at a viewer appliance;
receiving the user command and an identifier of a viewer who generated the user command;
establishing communication from the viewer appliance to a remotely located component;
noting a time that the user command was received by a central switch;
executing in parallel i) a capture of the user command and ii) concurrently forwarding the user command from the viewer appliance to the remotely located component; and
continuing to store information related to the user command at the viewer appliance after the user command has been executed.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising executing the user command at a premises of the viewer.

25. (Previously Presented) A method of capturing user commands from a viewer that are related to viewing content, comprising:

receiving programming from a distribution network at a viewer appliance;
establishing communication from the viewer appliance to a remotely located component;
receiving a user command at the viewer appliance and an identifier of a viewer who generated the user command;
concurrently forwarding the user command from the viewer appliance to the remotely located component; and
receiving a time that the user command was received by a central switch.

26. (Original) A method according to claim 25, further comprising executing the user command at the viewer appliance to alter an aspect of the content.
27. (Original) A method according to claim 25, wherein concurrently forwarding the user command comprises concurrently forwarding the user command to a remote storage device.
28. (Original) A method according to claim 25, further comprising matching the user command to a present context.
29. (Original) A method according to claim 28, further comprising determining a result of the user command relative to the present context.
30. (Original) A method according to claim 25, further comprising generating targeted advertising based upon information related to the user command.
31. (Original) A method according to claim 25, wherein the user command is concurrently forwarded as the user command is received, thus providing the remotely located component access to the user command.
32. (Original) A method according to claim 25, further comprising concurrently forwarding the user command as a control message.